

the GIPSA Web site, <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/oversight/parovreg.htm>.

**3. Request for Comments**

GIPSA also is publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to present comments on the quality of services for the East Indiana, Fremont, and Titus official agencies. In commenting on the quality of services, commenters are encouraged to submit pertinent data including information on the timeliness, cost, and scope of services provided. All comments must be submitted to the Compliance Division at the above address.

Applications, comments, and other available information will be considered in determining which applicant will be designated.

**Authority:** Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

**Donna Reifschneider,**  
*Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.*  
 [FR Doc. 03-29555 Filed 11-28-03; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 3410-EN-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration**

[03-02-S]

**Designation for the Frankfort (IN), Indianapolis (IN), and Virginia Areas**

**AGENCY:** Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announces designation of the following organizations to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act):

- Frankfort Grain Inspection, Inc. (Frankfort);
- Indianapolis Grain Inspection & Weighing Service, Inc. (Indianapolis);
- and
- Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Virginia).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janet M. Hart at 202-720-8525, e-mail [Janet.M.Hart@usda.gov](mailto:Janet.M.Hart@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the May 22, 2003, **Federal Register** (68 FR 27982), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic areas assigned to the official agencies named above to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by July 1, 2003.

Frankfort, Indianapolis, and Virginia were the sole applicants for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them, so GIPSA did not ask for additional comments on them.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Idaho, Lewiston, Ohio Valley, and Utah are able to provide official services in the geographic areas specified in the May 22, 2003, **Federal Register**, for which they applied. Interested persons may obtain official services by calling the telephone numbers listed below.

Official agency	Headquarters location and telephone	Designation Start—End
Frankfort .....	Frankfort, IN 765-258-3624 .....	1/01/2004-12/31/2006
Indianapolis .....	Indianapolis, IN 317-899-2337 .....	1/01/2004-12/31/2006
Virginia .....	Richmond, VA 804-786-3936 .....	1/01/2004-12/31/2006

**Authority:** Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Notice of Proposed Changes in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices**

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the intention of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to issue a

series of new or revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include: Irrigation Water Management, Salinity and Sodic Soil Management, Silvopasture Establishment, Vertical Drain, and Well Water Testing. These standards are used to convey national guidance in developing Field Office Technical Guide Standards used in the States and the Pacific Basin and Caribbean Areas. NRCS State Conservationists and Directors for the Pacific Basin and Caribbean Areas who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States/Areas will incorporate them into Section IV of their Field Office Technical Guides. These practices may be used in resource management systems that treat highly erodible land, or on land determined to be wetland.

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** Comments will be received for a 30-day period, starting on the date of this publication. This series of new or revised conservation practice

standards will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Single copies of these standards are available from NRCS-CED in Washington, DC. Submit individual inquiries and return any comments in writing to William Hughey, National Agricultural Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Post Office Box 2890, Room 6139-S, Washington, DC 20013-2890. The telephone number is (202) 720-5023. The standards are also available, and can be downloaded from the Internet, at: [http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice\\_stds.html](http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice_stds.html).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available, for public review and comment, proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of